

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: July 6, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on June 29, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Response, CSX Railroad Spill, Wilmington, Ohio

On June 17, 2001, a CSX Railroad train derailed at milepost 52.0 in Clinton County, Ohio, while en route from Columbus to Cincinnati. Approximately 28,000 gallons of sodium hydroxide were released into Cowan Creek, which leads to Cowan State Park Lake. The release of these hazardous substances caused a significant fish kill, but did not impact any drinking water intakes. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR), along with United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator Steve Renninger and U.S. EPA's Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractors, responded to the scene and began monitoring the cleanup efforts and the pH of the creek. CSX contractors worked to prevent additional sodium hydroxide from entering the lake, which is usually a recreational swimming and fishing area (the lake was closed during cleanup activities). On June 19, 2001, CSX contractors, while monitoring the creek's pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen, began slowly adding glacial acetic acid and citric acid to the creek to neutralize the sodium hydroxide. Several diaphragm pumps were brought to the site to agitate the creek and encourage mixing of the creek water with the added acid. CSX contractors also worked to upright the overturned tank cars and clear the tracks (16 rail

cars derailed, and the car carrying anhydrous ammonia residue overturned into the creek). DNR will quantify the fish kill. Media interest in the site included the "tracker" on CNN Headline News, "Swim At Your Own Risk".

Contacts: Steven Renninger (513-569-7539)
Colby Stanton (703-603-8895)

Response, Gasoline Pipeline Spill, Mansfield, Ohio

On June 15, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Buckley responded to a National Response Center (NRC) report of damage to a gasoline pipeline. A property owner in the process of excavating a pond within the pipeline right-of-way punctured the 6-inch pipeline which, although not flowing, was under pressure, resulting in the release of thousands of gallons of gasoline into the clay excavation. The pipeline flows from Toledo to Youngstown. Due to high ambient temperature, much of the gasoline evaporated. The remainder was vacuumed up and transported off site for reuse. Gasoline-contaminated soil was stockpiled for disposal. Temporary repairs were made to the pipeline and site operations were demobilized on June, 16, 2001, pending determination of responsibility for further activities. There was no indication that the digger had contacted the one-call utility number (also known as MISS-DIG). Activities like digging ponds are prohibited within 50 feet of a pipeline. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and the local fire department also responded.

Contact: Bob Buckley (734-692-7662)

Response (Residence), Sage Avenue Mercury Spill, Akron, Ohio

On June 24, 2001, U.S. EPA received notification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) that a mercury spill had occurred at a residence in Akron, Ohio. The local response team identified mercury in one of the bedrooms, isolated it, over-packed it, and removed it. Approximately 1/4 pound of mercury was spilled. The residents were relocated by the American Red Cross for the night. On June 25, 2001, U.S. EPA and its Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor mobilized to the scene. Although elevated mercury levels were present throughout the home, levels were above recommended action levels only in the bedroom in which the spill occurred. U.S. EPA immediately notified an Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) cleanup contractor to respond. The ERRS contractor removed contaminated carpet and some contaminated linens, and placed all contaminated materials, including that

removed by the hazmat team, into drums for future disposal. Follow up screening indicated that levels of mercury were below recommended action levels. Air samples were collected to insure that safe levels of mercury were achieved. Results are pending.

The highlight of this response was that a 12-year old boy recognized that mercury was dangerous from the news footage of the Lorain County mercury spill that occurred in a school bus about three months earlier. When his older brother spilled some mercury, he informed his father who notified Ohio EPA. This awareness and quick action saved thousands of dollars in cleanup costs. (The mercury had been taken from a high school about 2 years earlier.)

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

Emergency Response, Lake Shore Petrocorp (Citgo Service Station) Naperville, Illinois

On June 26, 2001, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charles Gebien responded, at the request of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), to an ongoing release of oil into the Du Page River in Naperville, Illinois. The oil, which appeared to be diesel fuel, was seeping into the River from the riverbank immediately adjacent to a Citgo Service Station. Cleanup contractors for the Citgo Station operator deployed boom, pressure tested tanks and piping, and used a geoprobe to investigate the source of the release. Unable to determine the source of the release, the operator indicated that he was likely going to discontinue response activities. After notifying U.S. EPA Headquarters, OSC Gebien issued a Notice of Federal Interest to Lake Shore Petrocorp, the property owner. Lake Shore Petrocorp agreed to accept responsibility for ongoing site assessment and response activities. Assessment and cleanup operations are ongoing and are being overseen by the Illinois EPA.

Contacts: Charles Gebien (312-353-7645)
Beth Henning (312-886-5892)

Emergency Response, Marshall County Pipeline Spill, Marshall County, Illinois:

On June 15, 2001, U.S. EPA received a call from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) field office in Peoria, Illinois, requesting assistance with a oil release from an abandoned pipeline creating a sheen on Crow Creek. Initially,

Trans Montagne Pipeline deployed boom in an effort to contain the release. Later, U.S. EPA determined that the abandoned pipeline was the property of Amoco Oil. Cleanup contractors for Amoco Pipeline Company vacuumed out and clamped the pipeline. Apparently, an oil residue was left in the pipeline which had been previously filled with cement. An abandoned pipeline in the middle of the creek was removed. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Anita Boseman responded to the call and issued an Notice of Federal Interest to Amoco Pipeline Company. Cleanup operations at Crow Creek were completed on June 23, 2001. OSC Boseman and a representative from Amoco verified the completion on June 26, 2001.

Contacts: Anita Boseman (312-886-6941)
Beth Henning (312-886-5892)

Site Deletion (National Priorities List), Tomah Fairgrounds Superfund Site, Tomah, Wisconsin

On June 21, 2001, a Notice of intent and a Direct final notice of deletion from the National Priorities List (NPL) was published in the Federal Register for the Tomah Fairgrounds Superfund site in Tomah, Wisconsin.

On September 26, 1996, the Regional Administrator signed a Record of Decision (ROD), selecting a remedy for the site. The ROD determined that "No Further Action" was appropriate due to deed restrictions limiting land use and an agreement between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the City of Tomah requiring the City to monitor groundwater to evaluate the progress of natural attenuation. U.S. EPA, with concurrence of the State of Wisconsin, has determined that all appropriate responses under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) have been completed, and that no further response actions, under CERCLA are necessary. Therefore, U.S. EPA is deleting the Site from the NPL.

Contacts: David Linnear (312-886-1841)
Gladys Beard (312-886-7253)

Removal Action Initiated, APEC Ampersee Street Site, Kalamazoo, Michigan

On June 14, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Lall mobilized Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) and Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractors and initiated removal activities at this location of surface soil

contamination, and drums, tanks, tankers full of solvents, wastes, and oils. The APEC Ampersee Street site is located right along the banks of the Kalamazoo River and is owned by the City of Kalamazoo, Michigan, through tax default. The City Economic Development Section, as it attempts to reclaim the parcel of land for useful purposes, is appreciative of U.S. EPA's actions.

Drums, tanks, and all other containers have been sampled and characterized. Waste disposal streams have been formulated. Disposal arrangements are being made. Contaminated soils have been disposed of. Post removal soil sampling will be conducted in order to evaluate completeness of the removal action.

Contact: P.C. Lall (734-692-7663)

Removal Site Assessment, Denton Avenue Site, Hamtramck, , Michigan

On June 14 and 15, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator Michelle Jaster and the Tetra-Tech EMI Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractors conducted a removal site assessment at the property located at 2930 Denton Avenue in Hamtramck, Wayne County, Michigan. The Denton Avenue property has been utilized for a wide variety of industrial purposes (including metal foundry and finishing applications) since the early 1900s. The City of Hamtramck currently owns the property as a result of abandonment and tax reversion. Wayne County and Hamtramck City personnel documented the presence of waste drums and an abandoned laboratory during a Brownfields Phase I assessment, and subsequently requested assistance from the U.S. EPA. The site assessment included the collection of a variety of solid and liquid samples. These samples are currently being analyzed for hazard waste characteristics, including flammability, corrosivity, and metals content. Pending analytical results, site enforcement activities and initial removal activities will be undertaken. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) personnel also participated in the site assessment activities in response to an unimplemented closure plan previously filed for the facility.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Special Notice Letters Issued, Ford Road Landfill Site, Elyria, Ohio

On June 25, 2001, U.S. EPA issued special notice letters under

Section 122 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to 13 Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for the Ford Road Landfill site in Elyria, Ohio. The letters were issued to the following PRPs: A.A. Rocco Trucking, Allied Waste Industries, a.k.a. Browning Ferris Industries, B.F. Goodrich, Brotherton Disposal, Inc., Chemline Corp, the City of Elyria, Elyria Foundry, Ford Motor Co., General Industries, General Motors Corp., Gulf Oil Co.-US, Harshaw Chemical Co., and the Lorain County Metropolitan Park District. The letters require a response from the PRPs within ten days and provide a 60-day moratorium on remedial actions to allow the PRPs to coordinate with any other PRPs, present to U.S. EPA a "good faith offer" to conduct and/or finance the remedial investigation and feasibility study, and to negotiate the terms of an administrative order on consent. During the moratorium, U.S. EPA may commence any additional studies or investigations authorized under Section 104(b), and take any action at the site should a significant threat to human health or the environment arise during the negotiation period. The Remedial Project Manager, Matt Ohl, has encouraged the involvement of the Natural Resource Trustees, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Ohl coordinated closely with the Trustees while drafting the administrative order on consent to provide for their participation.

Contacts: Matt Ohl (312-886-4442)
Robert Thompson (312-353-6700)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Tribal/State/U.S. EPA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Meeting, St. Paul, Minnesota

On June 25, 2001, Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), represented U.S. EPA Region 5 at the Tribal/State/U.S. EPA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota. The meeting addressed a redrafting of an MOU among the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT), State of Minnesota (State) and U.S. EPA Region 5. Originally signed in 1989, the MOU has been extended for different periods since that time. It addresses coordination and cooperation among the three parties during response operations for hazardous material and oil spills, along with emergency planning and related Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) implementation requirements. The meeting was attended by representatives of the MCT, Leech Lake Reservation, Mille Lacs

Reservation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Minnesota Division of Emergency Management. Most of the conversation focused upon the State "duty officer" passing spill report information to the reservations. The final outcome was that the State would fax the completed reports to the Tribes, but would advise the reporting party to directly call the reservation or call 911 to report the spills locally. The State was also unclear as to what might be the exact location of Indian Territory. Mr. Cekus will look into this issue to see if U.S. EPA Region 5 has available Landview maps that clearly show the boundaries of reservations in Minnesota. The programs can then be provided to the State and Tribe to help clear up the boundary issue.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

Indiana Shipping Canal Dredging Project Meeting, East Chicago, Indiana

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) hosted a meeting on June 21, 2001, at the request of U.S. EPA, to discuss potential problems with the confined disposal facility USACE is constructing to contain dredged sediments from the Federal portion of the Indiana Harbor Canal (IHC). The confined disposal facility (CDF) will be located on two north parcels of the former Energy Cooperative Industries (ECI) refinery site in East Chicago, Indiana. At the meeting, twenty technical and legal representatives from USACE, U.S. EPA, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the East Chicago Waterway Management District (ECWMD), and Atlantic Richfield Company/British Petroleum (ARCO/BP) attempted to reach consensus on options that would prevent off-site migration of free product (hydrocarbons) from the groundwater during construction (when the current free product recovery system will be removed) and after the CDF is completed. The USACE dredging project in the IHC has been in planning for some 30 years and on hold for much of that time due to controversy over placement of the CDF. USACE plans to put bids out for construction of the CDF soon, as construction is scheduled to start in the Fall of 2001. Dredging is scheduled to begin in 2006.

In March of 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Betty Lavis, while cleaning up an oil spill to the IHC adjacent to the proposed CDF site, observed the shoreline along the site was heavily oiled. The ARCO/BP installed recovery system was not controlling off-site migration of free product to the canal. OSC Lavis issued a Notice of Federal Interest to ARCO/BP requiring them to take whatever measures were required to prevent releases to the canal

and is negotiating for voluntary removal actions.

Contacts: Betty Lavis (886-7183)
 Beth Henning (886-5892)
 Charles Brasher (886-7196)
 Ann Whelan (886-7258)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

U.S. Conference of Mayors' 69th Annual Meeting, Detroit Michigan

From June 22-26, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Robert Buckley together with Arnita Hannon, Director, Mayors Desk, U.S. EPA Headquarters, attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 69th Annual Meeting in Detroit, Michigan. Brownfields and urban redevelopment were hot topics. The Mayors had high praise for the cooperative efforts of Administrator Whitman. Other environmental topics included aging water and wastewater infrastructure and the high costs to replace same. President Bush in his first visit to Detroit since his election addressed the Mayors with emphasis on topics other than the environment. A number of Cabinet-level officials also spoke to the Conference. There was considerable media coverage of the meeting.

Contact: Bob Buckley (734-692-7662)

Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) Meeting, Houghton, Michigan

On June 27, 2001, the quarterly Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) Meeting was held in Houghton, Michigan. The Western Lake Superior PAC consists of a wide variety of local, State, and Federal government members, as well as local industry representatives. The PAC meets quarterly (in both Duluth, Minnesota/Superior, Wisconsin, and Houghton, Michigan) to discuss coastal and inland spill response prevention and preparedness. This quarter's meeting featured several U.S. EPA presentations. On-Scene Coordinator Michelle Jaster delivered a short presentation on the Local Government Reimbursement (LGR) program available to local governments for costs incurred during emergency response actions. In addition, OSC Jaster announced the completion of the Oil Spill Exercise Generator program, and handed out copies of the CD to attendees. The PAC also discussed the progress of U.S. EPA's Sensitivity Mapping Project, and OSC Jaster presented a variety of vulnerability summary maps. Other PAC topics included the upcoming oil spill drill planned in Duluth for August 28 and 29, 2001, as well as an overview of the

unannounced exercises and facility inspections in the area. In addition, this quarter's PAC meeting was held in conjunction with the State of Michigan Emergency Management Division's District meeting.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) Meeting, Duluth, Minnesota

On June 19, 2001, the quarterly Western Lake Superior Port Area Committee (PAC) meeting was held at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) office in Duluth, Minnesota. The Western Lake Superior PAC consists of a wide variety of local, State, and Federal government members, as well as local industry representatives. The PAC meets quarterly to discuss both coastal and inland spill response prevention and preparedness. This quarter's meeting featured several U.S. EPA presentations. Ann Whelan from the Oil Planning and Response Section of the Emergency Response Branch spoke about the Oil Spill Exercise Generator program developed by Purdue University and U.S. EPA Region 5. CD copies of the program were handed out to meeting attendees. Ms. Whelan also discussed the progress of U.S. EPA's Sensitivity Mapping Project, and presented a variety of vulnerability summary maps. On-Scene Coordinator Michelle Jaster delivered a short presentation on the Local Government Reimbursement (LGR) program available to local governments for costs incurred during emergency response actions. Other PAC topics included the up-coming oil spill drill planned in Duluth for August 28 and 29, 2001, as well as an overview of the unannounced exercises and facility inspections in the area.

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